

REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 3 being independent, and having been amended herein.

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,862,652 (Tsuij). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's invention as set forth in Claim 1 relates to a method of controlling a printing apparatus which performs printing by using a printhead having a printing element and a storage unit, with the printing apparatus including a first control unit for controlling operation of the printing apparatus and a second control unit operating independently of the first control unit. The method includes an instruction generation step of causing the first control unit to generate an instruction for acquiring specific information from information held by the storage unit, with the instruction not including an address of the storage unit to be accessed, an acquisition step of causing the second control unit to receive the generated instruction, generating an address for accessing the storage unit of the printhead based on the instruction, accessing the storage unit at the address, and acquiring the specific information corresponding to the instruction, and a control step of causing the second control unit to drive and control the printhead based on information generated on the basis of the specific information acquired in the acquisition step in order to drive the printhead. As claimed, the acquisition step includes a generation step of generating an

access signal containing the address for reading out the specific information specified by the generated instruction, and a read step of accessing the storage unit in accordance with the access signal generated in the generation step and reading out the specific information. As amended, Claim 1 recites that the generation step generates the access signal by looking up a table which makes items of the specific information specified by the instruction and storage addresses of the storage unit.

In Claim 3, a printing apparatus which performs printing by using a printhead having a printing element and a storage unit includes instruction generation means for generating an instruction for acquiring specific information from information held by the printhead, with the instruction not including an address of the storage unit to be accessed, acquisition means for receiving the generated instruction, generating an address based on the instruction, accessing the storage unit of the printhead based on the address, and acquiring the specific information corresponding to the instruction from the storage unit, and control means for driving and controlling the printhead based on information which is generated on the basis of the specific information acquired by the acquisition means in order to drive the printhead. The acquisition means includes generation means for generating an access signal containing the address for reading out the specific information specified by the generated instruction, and read means for accessing the storage unit in accordance with the access signal generated by the generation means and reading out the specific information. Claim 3, as amended, recites that the generation means has a table which makes items of the specific information specified by the

instruction and storage addresses of the storage unit and generates the access signal by looking up the table.

In accordance with Applicant's claimed invention, a high performance controlling method and printing apparatus can be provided.

As discussed in the previous Amendment of July 20, 2006, Tsuji relates to a recording apparatus that can read various information, such as the amount of remaining ink and use start year and month, stored in non-volatile memories in ink cartridges. As understood, a memory access controlling section 3 receives address information from the apparatus main body controlling section 2 using serial communication, and acquires information corresponding to a command from non-volatile memories 4 and 5.

In contrast with Applicant's claimed invention, however, Tsuji is not understood to teach or suggest, among other features, generating an access signal containing the address by looking up a table which makes items of specific information specified by the instruction and storage addresses of a storage unit. To the contrary, in Tsuji the memory access controlling section 3 uses an access address received from the apparatus main body controlling section.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is respectfully requested.

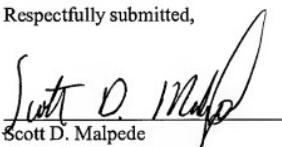
For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1 and 3. Dependent Claims 2 and 5-7 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in

addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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